

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, December 2, 2002

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, December 2, 2002, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair
Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson
Planning Comm'r Lyle Werner

Ric Knight, Vice Chair
Peg Coleman
John Kurtin

Town Staff Present

Mike Bomgardner
Calvin Grow
Nick Colonna
Officer Parsons

Citizens/Visitors Present

Gabe Kelemen Chip Groff

1. Liz Whiting convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., welcomed Gabe Kelemen and Chip Groff.
2. On motion by Calvin Grow, seconded by Ric Knight, the minutes of the November 4, 2002, meeting were unanimously approved as presented.
3. Chip Groff presented materials from the Town, County and State regarding pedestrian safety (accident figures), TEA projects funded and the announcement of his "challenge walk" from Kohl's to the Town Offices. He decried the low priority given to pedestrians as reflected in existing transportation improvements and those planned. After Mr. Groff left, Calvin Grow outlined what plans foresaw as the solution for various problems identified by Mr. Groff (e.g., Route 15 at Edwards Ferry future interchange, bus service, fence at Route 15 Bypass) and also announced that the pedestrian "count-down" signs, which were incorporated into the Catoctin Circle improvements on the recommendation of the Committee, are being included as a matter of course in future traffic signal project designs that warrant pedestrian phases.
4. Ric Knight raised a number of problems in the NW quadrant: (i) Why, having installed sidewalks and trails in the Fairview Street, N.W. improvements, a marked crosswalk across West Market Street to Catoctin Circle was not included. Calvin Grow explained that it would not lead to a sidewalk or trail connection, but that it was included with the trail improvements planned for Catoctin Circle, S.W. (ii) The threat posed by the "35 mph" signs just west of Fairview Street, N.W., which encourage speeding at this intersection, where pedestrian facilities had just been installed. The Committee asked staff to perform speed studies with a view toward removing the sign as tending to encourage speeding rather than reducing it. They also questioned whether the eastbound "35 mph" sign did anything to slow traffic coming off the Route 7/15 Bypass for the short stretch before 25 mph kicks in.

5. Lyle Werner observed how attractive and effective the textured pavement crosswalk at the County office building seemed to be and suggested that it be endorsed as the design standard for the Town, at least in the Historic District. Liz Whiting suggested that the Committee might endorse that recommendation as part of the Wayfinding Signage study, since a unified system of signs and visual cues, down to the pedestrian level, was part of what the consultant (Frazier & Associates) was developing for the Town and it could be that the wayfinding signage budget might be able to push forward this shared objective. On motion by Lyle Werner, seconded by Mike Bomgardner, the Committee unanimously endorsed a recommendation to support marking pedestrian crossings with textured pavement and painting, as illustrated by the Loudoun Street, S.E. example, as the new design standard within the Historic District. (Calvin Grow to forward recommendations to Ms. Marantha Edwards with Economic Development.
6. *Hague Drive, S.W. and Harle Place, S.W. all-way stops:* Peg Coleman reported that the affected neighborhoods (through their HOAs) were forming a traffic safety committee and that she expected an area-wide proposal to be brought to the Committee later this winter. Calvin Grow, Liz Whiting and Wes Thompson (or designee) are to meet with Peg Coleman and her neighbors Thursday, December 12th at 9:30 a.m.
7. *Tavistock Farms all-way stops:* Calvin Grow reported that the notice signs, inviting comment on the proposed stop signs, won't be available earlier than next week and that some report may be available for the January meeting if they do come in then.
8. *North Street, N.E. speeding complaints:* Mike Bomgardner reported that a pedestrian crosswalk would be marked across Catoctin Circle, N.E. on the north side of the intersection with North Street, N.E. with pedestrian crossing signage, and that stop bars would be marked on Mayfair Drive, N.E. at North Street, N.E. and that one stop bar would be installed on Washington Street, N.E. on the north side of North Street, N.E. Calvin Grow and Mike Bomgardner noted that the required painting can only be done when surface temperatures are 50 degrees or higher, so it may be a while before these can be installed.
9. *FY'04 budget request, projects:* Liz Whiting reported that after the November Committee meeting, Calvin Grow contacted her about the need to set a budget request for the FY'04 budget and that they had agreed to set a level that kept the Committee from having to compete with other projects in the CIP process. Calvin Grow reported that because that meant the request had to be less than \$60,000, he had submitted it for \$55,000. Liz Whiting reiterated her preference that the Committee look for projects in each quadrant of town that could be built in short order and that would demonstrate a range

of options. In order to assist the Committee in its deliberations, she passed out a spreadsheet showing the projects on which the Committee had been involved in one capacity or another, with their projected completion dates and, where not primarily a Committee-sponsored project, an indication of where the project came from.

After discussing proposals for the Southwest and Northwest quadrants and determining that the Committee wanted to back projects there but felt they didn't have the detail needed to push a budget of specific projects at this time, the Committee determined to (i) back one or more Southwest quadrant projects emerging from the December 12 meeting at Peg Coleman's house; (ii) endorse a landscaped entrance from Route 15/North King Street, south at the Toll House, with appropriate gateway or neighborhood signage and pavement markings to the north and south to calm traffic; (iii) endorse the design and/or construction of the Edwards Ferry Road/Plaza Street "diet" project, depending on whether the Southwest quadrant projects should be funded for construction or design, with the preference being that at least one or the other should be funded for construction in FY'04; and (iv) regarding a Southeast quadrant project, the Committee noted that Andrew McClellan's concerns about pedestrian and bicycle networks accessing the three schools on Evergreen Mill Road, S.E. and Freedom Park in Southeast needed to be resolved in the context of Parks & Recreation trail plans and that Kincaid Forest and Tavistock Farms proposals identified from the minutes by Liz Whiting did not have the benefit of formal neighborhood support (and the all-way stop requests didn't meet the Committee's charge for developing model or pilot projects). The Committee decided that Liz Whiting would prepare a solicitation for the Committee Website noting generally that the Committee was preparing a list of projects to recommend for approval by the Town Council for FY'04 and encouraging input by the public, not only in the Southeast quadrant. The Committee also endorsed the idea of approaching the Kincaid Forest and Tavistock Farms HOAs and letting them know that the Committee had reserved funds for a Southeast project, but not enough for more than one, and that the first neighborhood endorsing a pilot project within the range of ideas endorsed by the Committee for Southeast Leesburg would get Committee support.

10. *Northeast Quadrant vacancy:* The Committee reviewed the letters submitted by Gabe Kelemen and Rick Lanham. Lyle Werner observed that Gabe Kelemen's attendance at a series of long meetings over the last seven months spoke well of her commitment to the goals of the Committee; Ric Knight noted that Gabe Kelemen's resume showed experience that would be valuable to the Committee. On motion by Ric Knight, seconded by Lyle Werner, the Committee unanimously endorsed Gabe Kelemen as the Northeast quadrant representative to fill the unexpired term of Wayne Henderson.

11. *New business:* (a) Mr. Mervin Jackson and Lyle Werner noted that the Town Council agenda includes the opportunity for a report from each of the Council's commissions, boards and committees. After some discussion, it was decided that Liz Whiting would prepare a report to the Town Council during January 2003 and that the Committee would look at having a representative available to give a brief report to the Town Council once each month.

(b) Calvin Grow reviewed site plan issues involved in the God's Children Day Care operation approved for property located at Davis Avenue, S.W. and Valley View Avenue, S.W. The applicant had responded to sight distance problems by moving the entrance from Davis Avenue, S.W. to Valley View Avenue, S.W. and by increasing (beyond required minimum standards) the on-site parking to be provided. Problems remained—off-site—with cut-through traffic to Route 15/South King Street and with some limited sight distance at the Davis Avenue, S.W./Valley View Avenue, S.W. intersection, which staff intended to sign as safe speeds only at 20 mph, rather than 25 mph. The Committee felt this was an appropriate initial response and would await further inquiry by the Town Council before introducing itself into the matter.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, January 6, 2003. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.